Lord Milner pointed out:

" on the question of surprise, that we were always told that we could not surprise the enemy, yet the enemy always surprised us. In support of this Germany's success in instanced Verdun and the attack on Roumania, both of which were surprises. The surprising fact was that the Allies always rested with the enemy. General Gadorna had intimated that he could do something if given these guns, but the question we wanted to know was—could he undertake a really great and successful operation? It would not be worth while displacing the guns merely to gain five miles of territory instead of three. But it would be worth while to break right through. In any case, our strategic initiative on this front would be bound to disturb the enemy's plans, even if a tactical surprise were not possible."

The conclusions finally reached by the Rome Conference were set out in the following eight propositions :—

Conclusions of the Conference

1. The Conference agrees in principle that in future there should be closer co-operation between the Allies than in the past. They further agree that in future more frequent conferences are necessary.

2. The Conference regard as essential to the success of the Allied cause that the Western Powers

should take immediate steps to provide
Help for Russia the Russian Armies with the necessary guns and ammunition to enable them to make full use of their great resources in men, and to break through the German lines on the Eastern Front.